

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

So last week, we covered chapters 22 and 23.

We saw Abraham's faith put to the test – it was a test that God had been preparing him for, the ultimate test to determine his obedience to the will of God.

We also saw a picture of what was going to happen two thousand years later on the same Mount as Jesus became the Lamb for the burnt offering that Isaac asked about as they began to climb Mt. Moriah.

We then saw the death of Sarah in chapter 23 –

Now chapter 24 is a significant chapter being that the Holy Spirit inspired Moses to spend so much time on one event.

**Chapter 24 is the longest chapter in the entire book of Genesis and it consist of one single event, the search for the bride for Isaac.**

The only event that the book of Genesis speaks about more is the flood.

Think about that for a moment...

What is the Lord revealing to us in this chapter?

Let's find out.

Let's pray...

**[Gen 24:1-67 NKJV]**

**1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.**

Here in chapter 24, Abraham is 140 years old –

The only land he owns is the cave where he just buried his wife.

He sent Ishmael away and almost lost Isaac yet the scriptures tell us that, God had blessed Abraham in all things.

Many times we will not understand the circumstances that we are currently going through, however, we can be assured that God is continuing to bless us as long as we remain obedient to His will. Just like Abraham has demonstrated.

In the first two verses, is the only time we read of Abraham – yet the entire chapter is devoted to the strict obedience of his command.

**2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, 3 "and I will**

make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; 4 "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac." 5 And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?" 6 But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there. 7 "The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. 8 "And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

Chapter 24 is full of typology -

When we covered chapter 22 last week, I had mentioned that Abraham was a type of God the Father and Isaac was a type of Jesus Christ.

Do you guys remember that?

Here in chapter 24, the oldest servant, is a type of the Holy Spirit.

Let me explain...

We are going to see the oldest servant display many characteristics that the Holy Spirit processes.

Now back in Genesis 15, Abram asks a question regarding his heir.

Was Eliezer, his chief servant, the heir that God had promised him.

Of course, God said no – God affirmed that it would come through his son.

Most theologians believe that this old servant here in chapter 24 is Eliezer.

If it is Eliezer, it would be fitting because the name **Eliezer means “God’s helper”**

And in the New Testament Jesus Christ referred to the Holy Spirit in multiple occasions as **the Helper**.

**[Jhn 14:26 NKJV] 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

**[Jhn 15:26 NKJV] 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.**

The old servant is also a type of the Holy Spirit because He is entrusted with one mission and that is to find a bride for the Son.

**Who is the bride of Christ – the Church, we are.**

And as we continue to read the rest of chapter 24, we will find that Rebekah becomes a type of the church.

You see, the Holy Spirit is the One who is entrusted with the birth and care of the church.

The Holy Spirit is the One who empowers the Church (Acts 1:8; 2:4).

The Holy Spirit is the One who appoints leaders in the Church (Acts 20:28).

The Holy Spirit is the One who commissions people to expand the Church (Acts 8:29; 13:2, 4).

The Holy Spirit is the One who comforts the Church in times of trials (Acts 9:31).

The Holy Spirit works holiness into the Church (Romans 15:16) and also makes the Church fruitful (Galatians 5:22-24).

So here we see Abraham giving Eliezer the command to go find a wife for his son and the old servant must swear that he will be obedient to the exact words of the command.

Look at verse 5 again because we are reminded that God will not force us into a relationship with Him. **It is our own free will that determines our eternity.**

**10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods [were in] his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. 11 And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw [water]. 12 Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. 13 "Behold, [here] I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.**

**14 "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'--[let] her [be the one] You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."**

Verses 12-14 are significant because this is the first recorded prayer in all of scripture.

Now, the servant is looking for a sign – he is asking for discernment.

**How am I going to find the bride for my master's son???**

So he asks for confirmation in whom to choose.

Now the task of providing water to ten thirsty camels is not an easy one.

They say a camel can go almost 10 days without drinking water and in the process lose 1/3 of their weight.

A thirsty camel can drink up to 30 gallons – Eliezer is traveling with 10 camels. Do the math.

Even if Rebekah had one of those 5 gallon containers that we see people fill up in front of the supermarket – that would still be up to 60 trips of hauling water into the trough.

**15 And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. 16 Now the young woman [was] very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up. 17 And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher." 18 So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. 19 And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw [water] for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." 20 Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw [water], and drew for all his camels. 21 And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. 22 So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten**

**[shekels] of gold, 23 and said, "Whose daughter [are] you? Tell me, please, is there room [in] your father's house for us to lodge?" 24 So she said to him, "I [am] the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." 25 Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."**

So Rebekah comes out to draw water and the servant sees her and notices that she is young and beautiful and pure.

She then proceeds to do everything that the servant had stated in his prayer.

She allowed him to get a drink and she offered to provide water for his camels until they were full. It is at this point where the servant gives her a nose ring and two bracelets. Later on in the chapter, it actually shows that the servant put the nose ring on Rebekah.

**26 Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD. 27 And he said, "Blessed [be] the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren." 28 So the young woman ran and told her mother's**

**household these things. 29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name [was] Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well.**

Notice that the servant says – as for me, being on the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren.

This is where the application comes in church because as long as we are being led by the Lord, we will always end up right where He wants us to be.

We are always puzzled by what is God's will for our lives, in all reality, all we have to do is to allow Him to lead us – He will get us there.

In verse 29 we are introduced to Laban here and he is the one that is going to deceive Jacob later on in Genesis.

**30 So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. 31 And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels." 32 Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who**

**[were] with him. 33 [Food] was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."**

**34 So he said, "I [am] Abraham's servant. 35 "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him**

**flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and**

**camels and donkeys. 36 "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has.**

**37 "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I**

**dwell; 38 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.' 39 "And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the**

**woman will not follow me.' 40 "But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and**

**you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house. 41 'You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my**

**family; for if they will not give [her] to you, then you will be released from my oath.' 42 "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD**

**God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, 43 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass**

that when the virgin comes out to draw [water], and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink," 44 'and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"--[let] her [be] the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' 45 "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew [water]. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' 46 "And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her [shoulder], and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also. 47 "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter [are] you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. 48 "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son. 49 "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

So after the servant tells the family the story – the way God led him in choosing Rebekah – he wants an answer, “Are you willing to let your daughter go or not?”

**50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. 51 "Here [is] Rebekah before you; take [her] and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken." 52 And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, [bowing himself] to the earth. 53 Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave [them] to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother. 54 And he and the men who [were] with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master." 55 But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us [a few] days, at least ten; after that she may go."**

The servant showers Rebekah with these gifts and also provides gifts for the Rebekah’s family as well.

For the family, this is like a dowry that is made for the bride to be.

For Rebekah, this is like an engagement ring or a down payment for her inheritance that she will receive upon marrying Isaac.

Now for the believer – remember Rebekah is a type of the church/believer, turn with me to the book of Ephesians 1,

**[Ephesians 1:13-14 NKJV] 13 In Him you also [trusted], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

For the believer, the Holy Spirit is our down payment of our eternal inheritance of heaven.

Notice how the servant wants to return quickly with Rebekah but Laban and the mother want Rebekah to stay longer. This is what the world does to the believer, it attempts to hinder our obedience to the will of God.

**56 And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master." 57 So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally."**

**58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."**

Think about the decision that Rebekah is about to make, she is going leave her old life behind for a new life. She is going to a place that she has never been, she is going to meet a man that she has never met.

By stating that she would go – she was making a commitment to him and telling the world that she no longer is available.

This is the decision that we make when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

**[1 Peter 1:8 NLT] 8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.**

**59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, [may] you [become The mother of] thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them." 61 Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and**

**they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed. 62 Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels [were] coming. 64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; 65 for she had said to the servant, "Who [is] this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It [is] my master." So she took a veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's [death].**

In verse 63, we see Isaac being mentioned for the first time since???

The incident at Mt Moriah –

And here we see Isaac awaiting the arrival of His bride.

In the same way that we anticipate for our Bridegroom to arrive.

This chapter is more than a beautiful love story that happened 4000 years ago – it is a picture of the love story that is still waiting to come to an end.

17

Amen...

Let's pray....